Sloan, Eleanor

History Of The First United Methodist Church...

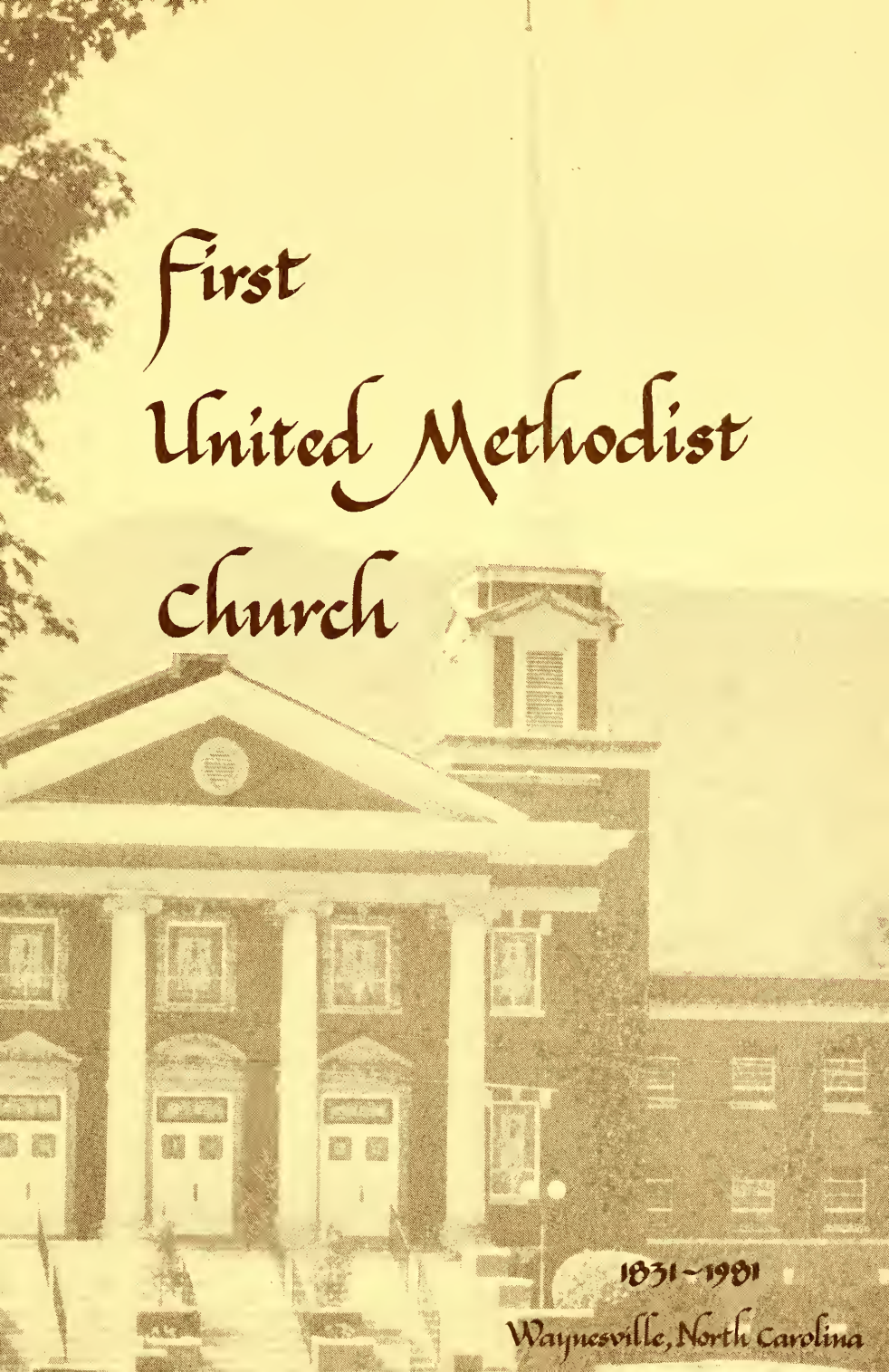
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1831 – 1981

Waynesville, North Carolina



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A HISTORY

OF

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WAYNESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

1831-1981

RESEARCHERS: Rubye Bryson (Mrs. Howard), Harriett Massie (Mrs. Hugh), Aileen Moore (Mrs. Frank), Anne Mundy (Mrs. Carl), Eleanor Sloan (Mrs. Ben) and Louise Sloan (Mrs. S. J.).

SOURCES: General Minutes, Holston Conference, Quarterly Conference Minutes, Haywood County Register of Deeds, W. C. Allen's "Annals of Haywood County," History of the First Methodist Church by Mrs. W. A. Hyatt, members of the church staff, the Stringfield Papers and R. H. Boone.

Compiled and written by Eleanor Sloan

PREFACE

This history of the First United Methodist Church in Waynesville is presented by the History and Records Committee in commemoration of the church's 150th anniversary.



It is written in tribute to those brave pioneers, who founded the church in 1831, and to those faithful and dedicated members who have given their time and talents to help carry out its mission during the past 150 years.

An attempt to include the names of all those whose work has been an inspiration or to include every event in the life of the church from year to year would require several volumes and would be practically impossible.

However, it the hope of the committee that reflection upon the history of the church, its heritage and its purpose and progress over the years may serve as a challenge for the future.

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Pioneer Methodism

The history of the Waynesville First United Methodist Church begins 150 years ago, in 1831, when the first mention is made in the General Minutes of the Holston Conference of the Waynesville Circuit in the Asheville District.

At that time William Eakin was the appointed preacher and there were 478 white and 30 "colored" members on the circuit.

The minutes give no information as to the first congregation or where services were held. In those days all reports of traveling preachers (circuit riders) were given as a circuit with no individual groups mentioned.

It is, however, known that Methodism came to this section with the early pioneers who crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains seeking to establish homes in a new land.

The country was young and so was Methodism. Until 1784 Methodism was a lay movement within the Church of England. But when the final separation of the American Colonies from England came in 1783, the idea of a new church was conceived. At a conference held at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, Maryland, in December, 1784 the Methodist Episcopal Church in America was born and began its historic mission.

By this time a few early pioneers had settled and built homes on Mount Pleasant, the ridge between Richland and Raccoon Creeks which formed the nucleus of the Town of Waynesville.

Bishop Francis Asbury, John Wesley's famous assistant and the first bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church ordained in

America, entered this area in 1810 and preached at the home of Jacob Shook, located in what is now the Town of Clyde.

Shook, a devout Methodist, had come to this section in 1785 and built a log cabin. By the turn of the century he moved his family into a new home, said to be the first frame house built in the county, with one room dedicated to the worship of God. The house still stands and is designated as a historical spot by the Methodist Historical Commission. The room for worship has been preserved as a hallowed shrine.

Additionally Shook gave a large tract of land for a camp ground which became a rallying point for Methodists within a radius of eighty miles. This certainly would have included the small village of Mount Prospect.

One historian writes:

> For a long time in the early days the Baptist house of worship, built in 1823 on the right bank of Richland Creek, was the only one in Waynesville. Other denominations held their services in Green Hill Academy, which was chartered in 1809, or in the court house built at the corner of Main and East Streets in Waynesville soon after Haywood County was erected in 1808.

At the time the county was formed Mount Pleasant was chosen as the county seat and was renamed Waynesville.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH

The second reference to the Waynesville Circuit appears in the Conference minutes for the year 1845. The circuit covered all of Haywood County and half of Jackson County.

That year the Holston Conference became a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church South after long and heated discussions at the General Conference about the division of the church into Northern and Southern Methodists.

The only Haywood appointments were for Waynesville and Echota Mission (Indian) with John W. Thompson and Robert Pickens in charge. There were "478 white and 30 colored members" on the circuit.

PROPERTY ACQUIRED

The first record of the Methodist Church owning property is a deed recorded in 1855 in the office of the Haywood County Register of Deeds calling for one-half acre and one pole on Green Hill, "together with all and singular houses, woods, waters, ways and privileges thereto belonging."

The property was deeded to Peyton Almon, J. B. Fitzgerald, G. L. Cunningham, William Grahl, S. W. Gaston and Joseph Rhinehart, trustees of the Waynesville Methodist Church, Franklin District, Holston Conference, by William Welch, William Johnston, J. Cathey, A. C. Hargrove, W. G. B. Garrett, S. Fitzgerald, B. Turner and John Killian, trustees of Green Hill Academy.

At this time Wiley F. Parker was the circuit preacher and memebrs of the "societies" totaled 711 white and 35 "colored."

THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING

After the acquisition of property the Methodists of Waynesville erected their first house of worship — a small frame building on Green Hill, the site of the present Green Hill Cemetery.

The building was used on alternate Sundays by the Presbyterians and Episcopalians of the community and, later as a token of appreciation for the use of the church, the Episcopal congregation presented a pulpit Bible to the Methodist Church. The



The first church built by Methodists of Waynesville on a site acquired in 1855 on Green Hill. The building was moved to Pigeon Street after a new church was built and stands today as the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Bible occupies a place in the church today.

This building was also used as a school. W. W. Stringfield, a church leader, wrote to the Asheville Citizen, in an undated letter:

> The school under the patronage of our Methodist Church is a grand success, with a fine faculty and over 100 pupils from four states and every county in Western North Carolina. Board may be obtained in fine Christian homes at from four to six dollars.

Another mission outgrowth of the church was Richland Chapel. Through the interest of the women a Sunday School was started and for many years was sponsored and staffed by church members.

FRANKLIN DISTRICT

The Waynesville Circuit was moved to the Franklin District in 1866.

Conference records for 1873 show there were 10 churches on the Waynesville circuit with 657 members and 13 Sunday Schools with an enrollment of more than 500 members. The churches were valued at $4,000 and there was one parsonage valued at $600.

The Rev. W. M. Kerr was assigned to the circuit in 1874 and his pastorate continued for four years. One of his major concerns was to provide good literature for proper Sunday School organization.

At a quarterly meeting held at Bethel in 1877, the presiding elder announced that only Waynesville and Richland Institute were holding Sunday School due to "uncomfortable conditions of meeting places and no special interest was manifested in religion because of unprecedented cold weather."

The total collection for the circuit was $75.95, two dollars of which went to the presiding elder and the rest to the circuit preachers.

Elected to fill vacancies on the board of trustees were Walter Brown, S. J. Shelton, J. C. T. Gudger, W. E. Miller, W. W. Stringfield, G. S. Ferguson, and W. M. Ayers.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

An important event in the life of the church occurred March 11, 1879, when the Waynesville Missionary Society was organized in the home of Mrs. J. M. Tate. Officers elected were Mrs. E. E. Edwards, president; Mrs. D. J. Ratcliffe, vice president; Mrs. J. K. Boone, recording secretary; Mrs. W. W. Stringfield, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. E. H. Bogle, treasurer.

Other charter members included Mrs. Tate, Mrs. Hazeltine Brown Killian, Mrs. Scott Brown, who was also the first organist in the church, Mrs. P. L. Turbyfill, Miss Corrie Kerr, Mrs. W. T. Lee, Miss Emma Rhinehart, Mrs. M. H. Rogers, Mrs. S. J. Shelton, Mrs. G. L. Ferguson, Mrs. R. D. Gilmer, Mrs. W. B. Ferguson, Mrs. B. F. Smathers, Mrs. Emma Willis, and Mrs. W. L. Norwood.

The preacher, the Rev. E. H. Bogle, spoke to the group and explained the purpose of the organization.

At the second meeting of the society, the women made preparations for a district meeting at which the Rev. James Atkins,

who later became bishop, delivered the address. The group also paid dues for the quarter amounting to $2.75.

Contributions for the first year of the organization totaled $7.75.

From the time the Missionary Society was organized women have played a vital role in the life of the church. Their purpose has been to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ. Their aim has been to help meet local needs and participate in global ministries of the church.

Some concerns in the early years are reported in notes compiled by Mrs. Rufus Siler. Minutes for 1882 showed that $1 was sent to a school for Seminole Indians and the group received letters each month from missionaries in Brazil and Mexico. Dues were 10 cents a month.

At the December meeting in 1896 a letter was read from the Conference president asking the local women to spend one-half as much as they had planned to spend on Christmas and send the rest to foreign missions. "We must not let the Lord's work suffer in these hard times," she wrote.

The forerunner of the fellowship dinners of later years was the first annual picnic held in 1886 at the home of Mrs. J. M. Tate.

A notation in 1897 describes a mass meeting, plans for which did not include taking an offering. But by the request of the pastor two little girls took baskets through the crowd and collected $5. Some did not think that was much but others said "you do not know how many souls that might save, so the meeting was not in vain."

Before the turn of the century the Methodist women met with black Methodist women of Waynesville who wanted to organize a society and instructed them on regulations and by-laws of the organization. A later project was to help get water to Pigeon Street, bed linen for Brevard College, and bedroom furnishings for the parsonage at a cost of $30. A benefit dinner was served at the courthouse which netted $28.40.

Members continued to help at Richland Chapel and reported that the night school there was "doing much good." One young man had decided to study for the ministry.

At another time the group joined Baptist women in petitioning the mayor not to wash the Waynesville streets on Sunday.



The first meeting of the Women's Missionary Society in 1879.



And a meeting at the home of Mrs. Charles E. Ray in 1923.

THE CHURCH BECOMES A STATION

A milestone was reached in 1880 when the Waynesville church with 182 white members was taken off the circuit and became a station. This meant that the church was established as large enough to have a minister assigned to one church, instead of being served by a circuit rider.

The Rev. E. H. Bogle was assigned as the first minister at a salary of $300 but "only $269 was collected the first year."

Stewards at the time were J. K. Boone, S. J. Shelton and G. A. Love. Class leaders were William Fincher and A. M. Ratcliffe and trustees were Walter Brown, J. M. Davis and H. M. Rogers.

A NEW CHURCH

By the late 1870's it had become evident that the congregation was outgrowing the small frame building and plans for a new building were being considered.

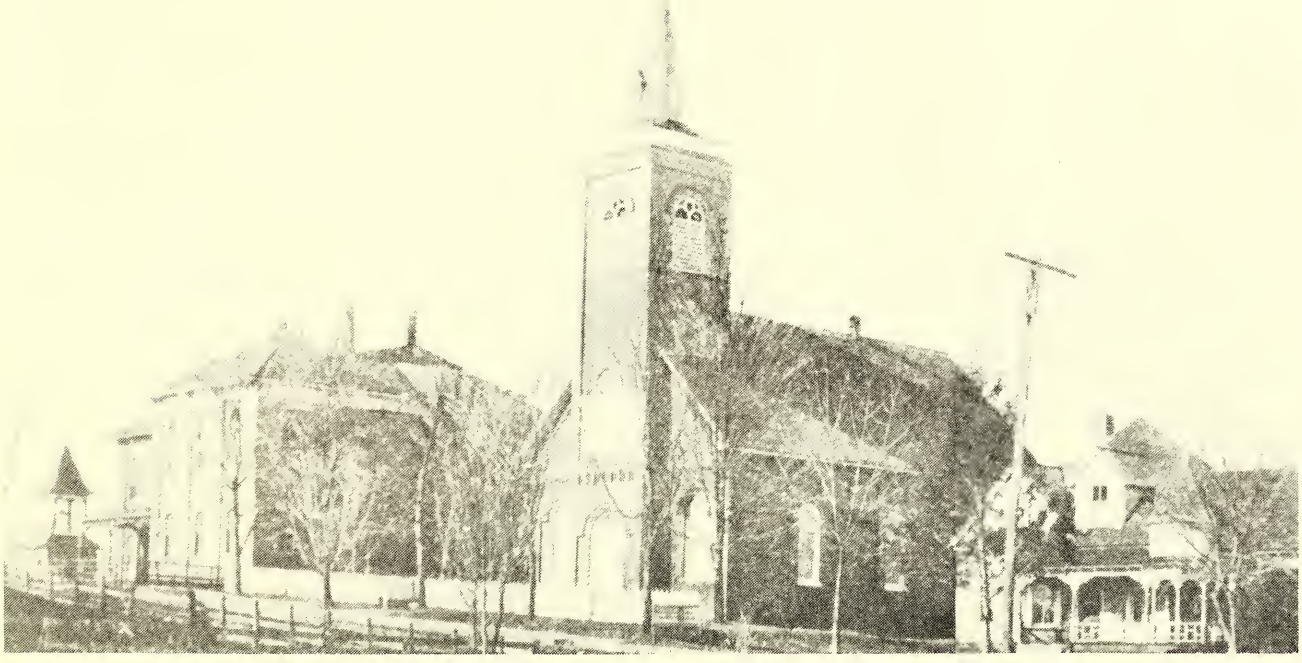
In 1878 the trustees submitted a plan for a new church to the quarterly conference, and the plan was approved. A subscription book was procured by the Rev. William M. Kerr, the preacher in charge, and members of the church made pledges to be payable in in one, two or three years from the first of October, 1878. About $1800 was pledged for the erection of a new church on a lot on Haywood Street purchased in 1859 from Alfred Rich and wife, Martha, for $82.50.

Named to serve on the building committee were W. Brown, J. K. Boone, E. P. Hyatt, W. E. Miller and M. M. Davis. The committee appointed S. J. Shelton to superintend the erection of the church and in July 1880, he began making the brick for the building at a cost of $700. The actual construction began in the spring of 1881.

WORK IS SLOW

After the walls were about two-thirds the height of the windows, in December, 1881, work was suspended until the spring of 1882. During the spring and fall of 1882 the walls were finished, the roof was framed and about five feet of shingles were put on each side. Then, again, work was suspended until 1883.

J. K. Boone was appointed superintendent of the work in



The quaint little brick church with a tower and steeple stands as a sentinel between the parsonage, at left, and the public school.

August, 1883, succeeding S. J. Shelton, who had resigned. Work on the building was resumed and continued until the brick work on the tower and gables was complete, the roof finished and the floor laid. Then in December that year work was suspended again.

Finally in April, 1884, work was resumed and continued until the building was completed August 20, 1884, at a total cost of $4,500.

The church was dedicated Sunday, August 24, 1884 by Bishop Hargrove. The Rev. W. Simpson was the preacher in charge and there were 186 members.

The brick building with a bell tower and steeple contained a sanctuary and two Sunday School rooms, one on each side of the vestibule. Other Sunday School classes met in the sanctuary in groups separated by portable curtains.

Roberts H. Boone, who was born in 1896, described the church as he remembers it:

> We children sat with our mother (Mrs. J. K. Boone) near the front of the church. There was a big pot-bellied stove near the middle aisle with one long bench in front. Two short benches were by the side of the stove and then there were long benches. We sat on the short benches.
>
> The choir sat in the right hand corner of the sanctuary on benches facing the pulpit and the amen corner was on the left.
>
> We had a good choir and everybody liked to sing. At one time there was an orchestra. Mrs. W. L. Matney played the organ, Miss Margaret Stringfield played the violin, Jerry Davis played the clarinet and Will Farmer played the trumpet. My sister, Mary, directed the choir.
>
> From the first time I can remember until his death in 1912, my father, John K. Boone, was superintendent of the Sunday School and led the singing, too. Some of the old gospel songs I especially remember are left out or changed in the new hymnals.
>
> There were two small Sunday School rooms, one on each side of the entrance. In the room on the left Miss Annie Shelton taught the beginners class. The room on the right had the stairs leading to the bell tower and in it Mrs. Hilda Way Gwyn taught the primary class. In the main church, E. P. Martin taught the boys, John Queen taught the young men and Professor E. J. Robeson taught the men's class.
>
> Ernest Withers and R. H. Blackwell were the best of ushers, who shook hands and greeted the people each Sunday.
>
> Over the years we had many revival services to raise the spiritual level of the church. I remember so well a revival during the pastorate of the Rev. M. F. Moores. The crowd was so big, the services were moved to the school auditorium.
>
> The Epworth League was a great help to the young people. In the services we learned to stand up before a group and speak about the work of the organization. This experience started many of us in the work of the church as Sunday School teachers and leaders in other work.
>
> Soon after the Lake Junaluska Assembly was organized, the Rev. O. P.

Ader took a group of young people to a meeting there. We went on the train from Waynesville to Lake Junaluska. It cost 10 cents from Waynesville to the Lake and a round trip ticket was 15 cents. Six passenger trains came into Waynesville at that time.

Other adult members of the church today remember the Christmas programs that involved children of all ages.

There was always a warm fire in the big stove and a big Christmas tree with candles. The younger children recited poems — sometimes with prompting — and the older youth were cast in manger scenes. S. C. Liner, who was gifted at building, constructed the stage settings, that included 'real life' angels suspended from the ceiling to hover over the manger.

After the program Santa Claus arrived with bags of nuts, candy and an orange.

Most people walked to church, sometimes on sidewalks made slippery by snow. The trip was always longer going home.

In the hot summer time there was always a bucket of cool water with a handy dipper by a bench under a big oak tree at the side of the church. The rest room was outside in the rear of the church.

FRAME BUILDING MOVED

After the new brick church was completed, the first little frame building was moved from Green Hill to Pigeon Street where it serves today as Jones Temple, A.M.E. Zion Church.

THE DECADE OF THE 1880s

During the decade of the 1880s, names of the same church members appear again and again in conference records as they assume various responsibilities of leadership and many of their descendants are leaders and dedicated members of the church today.

In 1881 A. M. Ratcliffe, Jr., W. W. Stringfield, G. A. P. Long and S. J. Shelton were delegates to the district conference in Franklin and Stringfield was given the responsibility of collecting $65.50 from the Waynesville Station for the purpose of discharging a debt against the district parsonage at Franklin.

W. W. Stringfield also served as a delegate to General Conferences in Richmond, Va., Atlanta, Ga., and Knoxville, Tenn.

J. K. Boone was recording steward and was also elected Sunday School superintendent. The preacher was W. A. Thomas.

A report by church trustees in 1883 stated, "We hold in trust for the church property consisting of the old property on Green Hill

now used for school purposes, the new church property on Church Street and the parsonage. The property on the hill is in tolerable good repair. The new church (incomplete) and lot are worth about $3,000 with a mortgage of $500."

Mrs. Mary Tate and her husband, J. M. Tate, gave a lot for a parsonage in 1885, "in consideration of the love we have for the church and from our earnest desire to promote its heritage on earth, in trust that the premises be maintained as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, who from time to time may be appointed."

Another deed recorded in 1889 from Mary Tate and J. M. Tate called for one tract of land deeded to the church trustees for $150.

Prior to that time a lot "for the benefit of the parsonage" was given to the church in 1876 by R. G. A. Love.

The church membership had increased to 197 by 1886. At that time, the pastor, the Rev. J. C. Orr, reported to the quarterly conference, "Some members are punctual and regular at church, upright in life and character and showing the beauties and excellences of Christianity, while some are so unguarded in their lives as to do things which bring reproach instead of honor upon the cause they profess."

WNC CONFERENCE

An important event came in 1890 when the Waynesville station became a part of the Western North Carolina Conference formed from portions of the North Carolina and Holston Conferences. The station remained in the Franklin District with the Rev. G. W. Jackson as the preacher. Assessments were $612 for the preacher, $88 for the presiding elder and $8 for the bishop.

An Epworth League was organized in 1896.

Another change came when the Waynesville District was formed in 1899. Membership of the churches in the district totaled 4,367.

The Waynesville First Methodist Church had 228 members in 1900 and the pastor, the Rev. J. E. Abernathy, received a salary of $622.43. There was much discussion on methods of collecting funds.

In those days it was customary to give new preachers and their families a "pounding" at which church members brought gifts of food and other items to make up for lack of money.

Around the turn of the century a decision was reached to build a district parsonage on Hamer Avenue in Waynesville, and the local church was expected to pay about one-third the cost.

The Developing Years

A NEW CENTURY

Electricity came to Waynesville early in the 20th century and brought with it discussion among church members on ways and means to raise funds to pay for electric lights and appliances in the church. The women, under the direction of Mrs. R. D. Gilmer, raised part of the needed amount by putting on a benefit supper and soliciting contributions from the members.

The salary of the pastor, the Rev. J. E. Abernathy, was raised to $1,000 and the presiding elder received about $150 from the Waynesville church.

A GROWING CHURCH

Growth of the church was continuous during the early 1900s and by 1914 the membership had reached 423. The Woman's Missionary Society had 30 members and the Epworth League organized in 1896 had a membership of 30.

In another two years the two small Sunday School rooms were inadequate and classes were being held in the parsonage and the public school. The Epworth League had been organized into junior and senior groups with 20 members each and there were two missionary societies with 50 members.

About this time the women were beginning to raise money for a new church and the stewards were trying to settle on a site for a new building.

Finally in 1921, with an enrollment of 496, the congregation was rapidly outgrowing the seating capacity of the sanctuary. So, with cash on hand, pledges and other assets, action was taken to build a larger and more modern church with class rooms, dining room and



The congregation gathered for this picture following the last service held in the old church in June, 1922 before construction was started on a new building.

kitchen facilities.

A building committee composed of Dr. Thomas Stringfield, J. R. Boyd, R. H. Blackwell, S. C. Satterthwaite, B. J. Sloan, Harden Howell, J. M. Mock and S. H. Bushnell was named.

Then a controversy arose about the location of the new building. One group, calling themselves "The Progressives," wanted to build the new church on the corner of Main and Walnut Streets, while other members, "The Conservatives" favored retaining the old site on Haywood St.

The Rev. George D. Herman was pastor and he suggested that each dollar pledged would entitle the donor to one vote in selecting the location. The Conservatives won and machinery was set in motion for building the new church on its present site. The hand-made brick from the old church was used as back-up brick for the new building.

Mr. Herman served the church for four years and the walls of the new building were completed before he was succeeded in 1924 by the Rev. J. T. Mangum, who saw the work completed. Services were held in the high school while the building was in progress.

The new church with a membership of 537 was completed in 1924 at a cost of $100,000. Mr. Herman preached the first sermon at the morning service June 22, 1924 and the Rev. Walter West, who preceded him as pastor, preached that night. The church was dedicated in September, 1925 by Bishop Edwin D. Mouzon and the Rev. J. T. Mangum presided.

The presiding elder was the Rev. P. W. Tucker, who succeeded the Rev. R. S. Howie. Members of the board of stewards were J. L. Stringfield, chairman, S. L. Stringfield, C. W. Miller, E. J. Robeson, Fred Martin, J. R. Boyd, J. M. Long, E. J. Hyatt, James McLean, Elmer McClure, Thomas Stringfield, James Atkins, H. J. Sloan, R. H. Blackwell, Henry Gaddy, J. M. Mock, Jere Davis, Charles Miller, Charles Badgett, O. T. Alexander, Dr. C. H. McDowell, Guy Massie and Roberts Boone.

S. C. Liner was Sunday School superintendent, Jere Davis was treasurer, and John M. Queen was superintendent of the adult department, R. O. Edgerton was superintendent of the Young People's Department, Miss Nannette Jones taught the seniors, Miss Ruth Wyche taught the intermediates, Mrs. T. L. Gwyn, the juniors, Mrs. Rufus Siler the primaries and Mrs. E. L. Withers taught the beginners.

The pastor's salary was raised to $4,000.00.

It is noted that the last couple married in the old church were Hettie Mock and Guy Massie and the first couple married in the new church were Mary Martin and Aaron Lynch.

Enhancing the beauty of the new sanctuary were the stained glass windows given by church members in memory of loved ones. A pipe organ was given by S. C. Satterthwaite, Jr., in honor of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Satterthwaite, both of whom were loyal members of the church. He later gave carrillonic bells as an additional memorial.

A NEW PARSONAGE

The same year the church was completed a lot on the east side of Tate Street was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Troy Wyche for $1200 on which to build a parsonage.

Shortly thereafter building the new parsonage to replace the small frame building below the church on Haywood Street became an outstanding project. The church set out to raise $10,000 for that purpose.

There were 599 church members at the time and the Woman's Missionary Society had 58 members, divided into four circles. One of the many projects of the women was serving lunch to the Rotary Club every week, earning about $1,000 a year to go to the parsonage fund.

Finally on April 13, 1931 the congregation voted unanimously to begin construction of the parsonage and the following building committee was named: E. J. Hyatt, J. R. Boyd, J. M. Long, Mrs. Rufus Siler, Mrs. C. E. Ray, the Rev. Watson O. Goode, who was pastor at the time, and Bonner Ray, ex officio.

Added to the board of stewards were O. T. Alexander, Henry Gaddy, C. F. Kirkpatrick, J. M. Mock, N. W. Garrett, Bonner Ray, Dr. Tom Stringfield, T. M. Sewell, E. J. Hyatt, Miss Margaret Stringfield and Miss Bessie Boyd.

James Atkins, Jr. was district steward and Homer Henry was general superintendent of the Sunday School.

The brick parsonage was completed in 1932 at a cost of $12,000 and was furnished and equipped with modern conveniences.

The Rev. Wade Johnson was assigned as pastor in 1932 and the Rev. L. B. Hayes was presiding elder. Mrs. Rufus Siler and Miss Bessie Boyd were added to the board of Christian Education

and Hugh Sloan was named Sunday School superintendent. The Epworth League "enjoyed a good attendance."

In the fall of 1933 the Rev. Paul Hardin, Jr., who later became a bishop of the South Carolina Conference, came to the church and was pastor through two years of the Great Depression. During his pastorate the Sunday School attendance improved and the work of the women was "meritorious as usual." The membership had increased to 488 but the preacher's salary which had reached $4,000 a few years before, was only $2600.

Additions to the church property were a garage for the parsonage, completed at a cost of $375, and the extension of the brick wall in front of the church, which was the work of Ernest Hyatt.

During the pastorage of the Rev. R. S. Truesdale in 1937, W. L. Hardin, Jr., J. Dale Stentz, Miss Bessie Boyd and B. F. Smathers were added to the board of stewards. Mrs. Grover Davis was president of the Woman's Missionary Society.

The following year, the Rev. J. G. Huggin, Jr. became pastor and M. H. Bowles assumed the duties of Sunday School superintendent. Church property was valued at $95,000.

A gift of offering plates was presented to the church that year in memory of Clarence Watson Miller by his children, Georgia M. Kirkpatrick, Robena Miller, Jane Miller Perry, Sadie Miller Niles and David and Clarence Miller.

UNIFICATION OF METHODISTS

For many years the three independent branches of the Methodist Church in the United States, the Methodist Protestant Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South, worked toward unification.

This dream became a reality at a uniting conference held in Kansas City, Missouri, April 26, 1939, when nearly eight million Methodists became members of the Methodist Church of America.

Under this union, all horizons of the church were broadened. The Woman's Missionary Society became the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the Epworth League became the Methodist Youth Fellowship and the Sunday School became only a part of the church school program. Mrs. James Atkins, Jr. was the first president of the Woman's Society and Mrs. T. Lenoir Gwyn and

Mrs. Rufus Siler organized a Wesleyan Service Guild.

In accordance with this larger vision, the First Methodist Church in Waynesville prepared to extend its service, not only to the congregation but to the community as a whole.

CLASSROOMS ADDED

When the present church was built there were only two rooms in the basement. These were the dining room (now the Wesley Fellowship classroom) and a kitchen with side entrances.

The Rev. Clay Madison, who was appointed pastor in 1941, immediately realized the need for additional classrooms and, under his leadership, the basement was excuvated and five classrooms with a hall and stairway from the narthex were built.

Another addition to the church came in 1944 when a tower music system was installed by Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Massie in memory of their son, Frank C. Massie.

THE BOYD CHAPEL

The Boyd Chapel in the basement of the church was built soon after the end of World War II in honor and memory of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Boyd by their children. It is also a memorial to Lt. Thad O. Chafin, Jr., grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, who was killed in action in the service of his country in Germany, November 22, 1944. The news of Lt. Chafin's death came December 10, 1944, the same day that Mrs. Boyd (Sally Campbell Boyd) died.

Miss Bessie Boyd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, who had been a Sunday School teacher and counselor for the Epworth League for many years, conceived the idea for the chapel to be used primarily for youth assemblies. It has since been used not only for youth assemblies, but for any occasion when a smaller sanctuary is needed.

Mr. Boyd died in September, 1949 and since that time the Boyd family has remodeled, improved and refurnished the chapel.

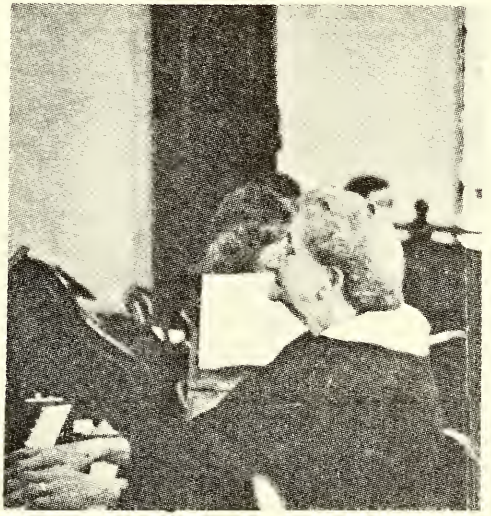
A brass plate on the door bears the inscription, "In honor and memory of our father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Boyd by their children, September 5, 1947. Within the chapel a brass plate is inscribed "In loving memory of Lt. Thad O. Chafin, Jr., 1944."

The church acquired more property when a lot adjoining the parsonage was purchased from Helen and Ruth Wyche in March, 1947 for $4,000.

Look Magazine, in an article published in 1952 entitled "What is a Methodist?", featured the Waynesville First Methodist Church and all its activities. Shown here are reprints from that magazine.



Methodist women prepare lunch for the meeting of a men's club, an ongoing fund-raising project for many years. From left, they are Mrs. Grover Davis, Mrs. Annie Massie, Mrs. Charles Burgin and Mrs. Kate Morris.



Mrs. W. L. Matney was organist for the church from 1901 until 1956.

THE EDUCATION BUILDING

By the mid 1950s, the continued expansion of the church program and the need for more space, especially for Sunday School classes, prompted the official board to start a building program.

In October, 1956, during the four years of the Rev. Earl H. Brendall's pastorate, the board agreed that thirty-five percent of all collections should be set aside as a nucleus for a fund for an education building.

An architect was contacted and a building committee was appointed. The committee was composed of Rufus Siler, chairman, Ben J. Sloan, Weaver Kirkpatrick, Mrs. David Hyatt, W. Hugh Massie, Mrs. J. H. Woody, Mrs. Rufus Siler, Lawrence Leatherwood, Mrs. Ben J. Sloan, Mrs. E. C. Wagenfeld and John Hildenbiddle. Later Carl Ratcliffe and Tom Ray replaced John Hildenbiddle, who moved away, and Weaver Kirkpatrick, who died in 1958. Jonathan Woody was chairman of the board of stewards.

It was also during this period that the church accepted the obligation of a $1,000 mission special for the Cullowhee Methodist Church.

Mrs. W. L. Matney, who had served faithfully as church organist from 1901, most of the years without salary, retired in April, 1956. She was presented a certificate of appreciation and the official board voted to continue the salary she was receiving at the time. Mrs. Matney's daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Calhoun, was named to serve in her place until a permanent organist could be employed.

A Bible, signed by all members of the First Methodist Church, was presented to Grace Episcopal Church in the Mountains October 6, 1957, when Grace Church dedicated a new church building.

DRIVE LAUNCHED

The Rev. R. Herman Nicholson was assigned to the church as pastor in June, 1957, and work on the education building started in earnest. A drive was launched in July, 1958 which resulted in pledges amounting to $160,000.

Construction was started immediately and the building was completed in late 1959 at a cost of $160,000. The cost of improvements on the lot amounted to $4,500 and the cost of furnishings and classroom necessities was approximately $25,000, bringing the total to $189,500. Another addition to the church property was a parking lot on the corner of Academy and Tate Streets, purchased for $15,000.

CORNERSTONE LAID

The cornerstone for the new education building was laid in a ceremony held June 12, 1960, with Mr. Nicholson, the Rev. Frank Smathers, district superintendent, and Rufus Siler, chairman of the building committee participating. Encased in the cornerstone were a history of the church, various church documents, a list of the church members and members of the official board, church publications and a copy of the local newspaper, The Mountaineer.

A tie with the past was preserved when the bell from the old church was hung in the tower of the new building and was rung each Sunday morning.

One room in the new building was set aside for a library in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Boone and was furnished by members of their family.

About the same time a ramp was built at the side of the church in memory of James Manley Long by his wife, Leona Weaver Long.

A GROWING CHURCH

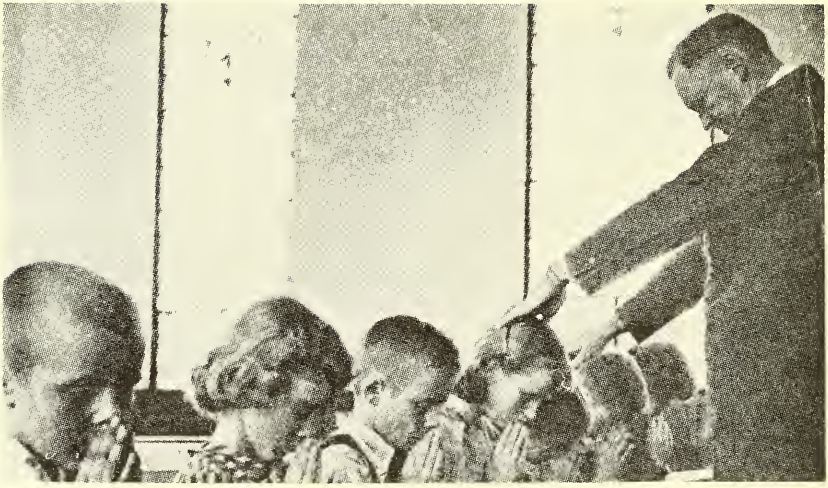
Additions to the church staff were made in 1957 when Mrs. Frank Moore was employed as secretary and Mrs. W. G. Parker was employed to work with the Junior and Youth Choirs.

It was also during Mr. Nicholson's ministry that several projects were started.

The first annual Pancake Festival, which was originated and planned by Mrs. Rufus Siler as a project to raise funds to finance equipment for the kitchen, was held April 22, 1958.

The project involved both men and women of the church with Carl Ratcliffe as chairman of the men's division, Mrs. Hugh Massie in charge of the women's division, and Mrs. Carl Ratcliffe in charge of tickets.

Mrs. Siler continued to serve as general chairman until



The Rev. J. E. Yountz receives young members into the church.



Church members dress in costumes of the past for a special service in 1976 in observance of the Nation's 200th birthday.

illness forced her to step down in 1972. She was succeeded by her niece, Mrs. Charles Way, who had assumed the chairmanship of the women's division in 1961. Charles Way became chairman of the men's division in 1960.

Another special program which raised the spiritual tone of the church was the organization of cottage prayer groups. Mr. Nicholson spoke to these groups by radio as they met in homes of members over all the community.

Mrs. Gerald Schoonover became the first full time minister of music in 1960, serving as choir director and organist.

Under Mr. Nicholson's guidance, new emphasis was given to stewardship, and tithing. A fund raising program was started in which the entire congregation met for a Loyalty Dinner on a given night each year and made pledges for the continued work of the church.

The church also began exercising some missionary vision by pledging $1,000 a year for five years to Faith Methodist Church. Contributions were made to missions in Koulon Church, the Belgian Congo, Sarawa, Alaska University, MCOR and district missions. A contribution of $500 was made toward the construction of a chapel in the Haywood County Hospital and the Youth Fellowship engaged in furnishing a prayer room at the hospital.

Membership enrollment reached 841 during the conference year 1961-62. Mrs. Carl Ratcliffe and Mrs. Howard Bryson were elected to the board of stewards, W. H. Massie was district steward and Carl Ratcliffe was superintendent of the Church School.

At a quarterly conference in December 1961, James W. Fowler III was recommended to be licensed to preach.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Special gifts to the church during this period included brass altarware — a cross, candlesticks and vases — in memory of Mrs. Charles Edwin Ray, Sr. (nee Minnie Shelton), given by her daughter, Katharine Ray Watkins.

Offering plates in memory of William Arthur Hyatt were given by his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. David Hyatt.

Paraments for the communion table and lectern were given

in memory of Mary Lou Moody Garrett by her husband, Noble Garrett and their children.

Storm windows and doors for the parsonage were given by Johnny and Lena Ferguson.

EDUCATION ASSISTANT

In 1962 Martha Griffin was employed as the first full time Christian Education assistant.

Also in 1962 the official board passed a resolution to mail the church bulletin to each church family and this service has continued to be helpful especially to shut-ins who appreciate knowing what is happening in the church.

Toward the end of Mr. Nicholson's full six-year ministry, the parsonage was repaired and remodeled with work completed in time for the Rev. Horwood Myers and his family to occupy it in June, 1963.

Other activities within the church during this period included sponsorship of scout troops for girls and boys with leadership provided by church members. Playground equipment was also provided for the kindergarten.

An addition to the church was made by Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Ferguson when they decorated the room next to the Boyd chapel as a place for meditation.

During Mr. Myers' pastorate the church added to missions by providing half the funds for support of the Rev. and Mrs. Raymond DeHainaut, missionaries to Brazil.

The Spare Time Club for senior citizens was organized in 1965 under the direction of Mrs. Gerald Schoonover, chairman of the Commission on Christian Social Concerns, as an interdenominational community project.

NOTE BURNING

A red letter day came June 13, 1965, when a note-burning service was held to mark the cancellation of indebtedness on the education building. Dr. Clay Madison delivered the dedicatory sermon with Mr. Myers presiding.

The building was formally dedicated by Dr. Herman Nicholson on November 7, 1965.

The following year Mrs. Betty Lopez was employed as educational assistant and a memorial fund was established for the

purchase of a new organ.

Another new program was started when the church entered a group participation plan with the Red Cross Bloodmobile by which all members were entitled to receive blood when needed.

WIDENING HORIZONS

The Rev. Robert Rawls succeeded Mr. Myers as pastor in 1967.

In October, 1968, the church conducted one of its most important and rewarding programs — a Lay Witness Mission. This involved youth and adults as individuals, and groups of deeply dedicated people who came to the church and related their special experiences of meeting and serving their Lord. The effects of this program have continued as members meet in study and prayer groups and witness to their love of God.

One of the outstanding evangelistic programs was brought to the membership by Dr. Reginald Mallett of England. This outstanding minister came in 1971 and again in 1975 for five-day periods of inspirational messages of hope and challenge. The mission of the church seemed to receive new impetus in both foreign and local areas.

Youth reached out into the community and completely renovated a house for a needy family and many members volunteered their services for a much needed county transportation program which enabled many people to attend clinics and visit doctor's offices.

The church employed Mrs. Santiago Lopez as coordinator for the volunteer program and she was able to enlist additional volunteers from other churches to serve the people in their immediate locale. The new Mental Health unit received special funding from the church and one member, Mrs. Margaret Pilarski, leased her property for $1 a year in order to make this worthwhile program more available to the public.

A contribution of $300 was made by the church to help support a tutoring program at the Pigeon Street school.

Also receiving additional funding was a newly organized local mission entitled the Haywood Cooperative Christian Ministry which had become a real asset to the underprivileged people in the county. The national and world mission endeavors continued to grow in Japan, Korea and the Cherokee Indian Reservation as the church assumed support for more workers and assistance in building new churches.

A NEW ERA

A new era in church history began in 1968 when the General Conference of the Methodist Church met in Dallas, Texas, with the Evangelical United Brethren and, after much deliberation, voted to unite with this group to become the United Methodist Church.

Hugh Massie, who had served as lay delegate from the Western North Carolina conference to General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the Methodist Church from 1956 to 1972, was a lay delegate to the Dallas Conference.

This unification changed the entire structure of the church and brought about many changes at the local level.

The official board was renamed and became the Administrative Board; the Woman's Society of Christian Service became United Methodist Women; and the Sunday School superintendent became the chairman of the Church Study Program.

The commissions were replaced by committees and task forces and a Council on Ministries was formed that included work area chairmen of youth, children, adult and family life, and committees on mission education, membership and evangelism, and music and worship.

The function of the Council on Ministries was to give the committees a unified planning body.

CHOIR LOFT RENOVATED

In 1970 approval was given for much needed renovation of the choir loft and sanctuary and the purchase of an organ. New pulpit furniture was given by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Frehn in memory of Mrs. Frehn's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Blackwell.

An important addition to the music ministry was the organization in 1972 of a handbell choir. The initial handbells were given by groups and individuals as a memorial to Dr. Thomas Stringfield II and additional bells necessary for a full choir were later given in memory of Mrs. Rufus Siler. Pam Parrish, who was educational assistant, assumed the responsibility of directing the bell ringers.

The Rev. Bernard Hurley came to the church as pastor in June, 1971 and under his leadership the church continued to grow in membership and stewardship. New world mission was undertaken in Chile and the Philippines and local mission was expanded.

During the summer of 1972 Mr. Hurley exchanged pulpits with the Rev. A. P. Horner of England — an exchange that proved valuable not only in terms of spiritual enrichment but also of individual pleasure to the ministers' families. The exchange served as an additional bridge for understanding the witness of another nation.

WHO

A new organization called "WHO" (We Help Others) was formed in 1973 under the direction of Mrs. R. K. Butler. This group has continued to meet each Thursday in the fellowship hall for luncheon and a good time. The members have sewn various articles for rest homes from donated material and, since its origin, the group has distributed hundreds of articles throughout the community.

The beauty and safety of the church were increased in 1974 when Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Woody remodeled the front of the building with new steps, lights and shrubbery.

Memorial gifts at this time were a Bible stand given by their children in honor of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bradley on their 50th wedding anniversary, September 7, 1973; and two brass altar vases given by Mrs. James Michaels in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Blackwell.

A station wagon was donated to the church by the trustees and interested friends, who voted to make it available for youth, the kindergarten and the WHO group.

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Dr. Larry Wilkinson was appointed minister of the church in 1976 and under his leadership the church continued to initiate new services and gain new members to reach a total of 1078.

Changes in personnel came with the retirement of Mrs. Frank Moore, church secretary-treasurer, and her replacement by Mrs. L. D. Atkins, Jr.

The Rev. Lloyd D. Bolt of Lake Junaluska, a retired member of the South Carolina Conference, became the church's first

minister of visitation and Mrs. Marie Duncan was employed as the first church hostess.

Mrs. Betty Lou Stroud was named director of music and youth to replace Frank Calhoun, who had retired after eight years as director of music to accept a position at the First United Methodist Church in Winter Park, Fla.

A new program was started when the church began recording Sunday morning services on tapes to be taken to shut-ins in order that they could participate in the worship in their homes.

The Work Area on Evangelism initiated a program by which volunteers were assigned five church families each to take under their watch care.

In the spring of 1977 Mr. and Mrs. William M. Cobb went to London, England, to attend a ceremony commemorating the laying of the foundation stone for the restoration of Wesley's Chapel and to present a love offering of more than $1,000 from the First United Methodist Church to go into the restoration fund. Methodists all over the world responded to the drive for funds for the restoration which generated $1,100,000.

When the completed chapel was reopened and dedicated in November, 1978 in the presence of Queen Elizabeth, the Waynesville First United Methodist Church was represented by Dr. and Mrs. Joe Hale and their son, Jeff; Dr. and Mrs. Lee Tuttle and the Rev. Russell L. Young.

In the spring of 1979 the congregation welcomed Miss Christine Anderson, an English exchange student from Cornwall, England, and a licensed local preacher of the British Methodist Church. During her visit of several months, Miss Anderson visited in homes of church members and endeared herself to the church as a whole. She worked with the youth and assisted Dr. Wilkinson at regular services.

Pledges were also made by church members to the Givens Estate, a United Methodist retirement community established in Asheville.

Additional service beyond the local church was given by groups who joined work teams in Puerto Rico and Panama where they helped build new churches or restore old ones.

These groups included Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bryson, Mrs. Charles Gidney and her daughter, Martha Gidney, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Leatherwood, Mrs. Dick Moody, Howard Williams, Howard Bryson and Marvin Culbreth, some of whom have made more than one trip.

The Church Today

In June, 1979, the Waynesville United Methodist Church again experienced the United Methodist system of itinerate ministry when a change of ministers occurred.

Dr. Wilkinson, who had served the church for three years, was appointed superintendent of the North Wilkesboro District and two new ministers were appointed to succeed him.

The Rev. Kelley R. Jones, who had previously served in the Charlotte and High Point Districts, became the senior minister of the Waynesville church and the Rev. David Fussell, who had just graduated from the Candler School of Theology, became the church's first associate minister to provide additional service to the growing congregation. Mr. Fussell was assigned the major responsibility for ministry to youth.

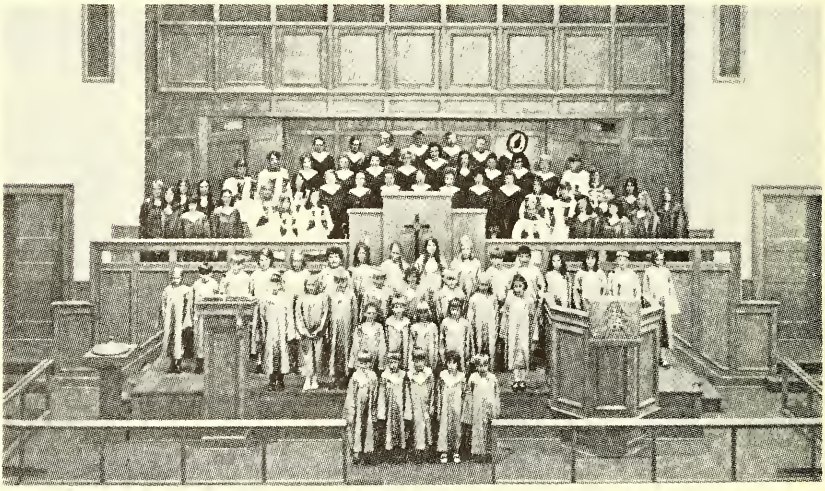
Under Mr. Jones' leadership the church has continued to experience growth in membership and development of ministries. A renewed emphasis on evangelism has led to greater involvement of lay persons in visitation of prospective members. Since June, 1979, 91 new members have been received, bringing the total membership to 1103.

Mr. Jones has also led a renewal of emphasis on Sunday School membership with a campaign based on the theme "Sunday School — Make It Live."

Another program recently started is the renewal of the Membership Caring Ministry, with the entire membership organized into 43 Caring Fellowship units. The units vary from



The Church in 1981



six to twelve families grouped geographically for caring support and ministering together.

The stewardship of giving has also grown each year. In 1979 the church budget was $160,000; in 1980 the budget was $196,000; and for 1981 the pledged budget is $217,000.

In addition the congregation accepted and pledged $27,314 over a three-year period as a part of the Annual Conference Campaign for Ministers' Pensions.

The church continues to support Mr. and Mrs. David Swain, missionaries to Japan, which was started a number of years ago.

KNEELERS DEDICATED

A special event in the life of the church occurred May 24, 1980 when needlepoint altar kneeling cushions were dedicated to the Glory of God in memory of W. Hugh Massie in appreciation of his years of devotion, generosity, service and loyalty to the First United Methodist Church. The cushions, with designs depicting the Life of Christ, were presented to the church by Mrs. Hugh Massie, her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Way, and their children, Chuck, Linda and Harriett Way, and friends. The needlepoint was the handwork of women and men of the church and friends of other churches.

Mr. Massie, who died January 7, 1978 had been a leader in the church for many years and had held offices in all levels of church work.

Another memorial to Mr. Massie is a painting of Lake Junaluska by Frances Layfield given by Wesley Fellowship Sunday School Class of which he was a member. The painting hangs in the class room.

On March 8, 1981 the congregation voted to purchase the Smith property next door to the church on Haywood Street at a cost of $42,000. Almost half the needed amount came from a $15,000 bequest from the late Mrs. Thad Howell with the stipulation that the money should be used for the purchase of church property.

The congregation agreed that the property was needed, not only for additional church facilities, but as a protection from what might become undesirable neighbors.

Throughout his ministry Mr. Jones has stressed concern for a balanced ministry and mission, leading the church to become involved in every area of opportunity with global ministries and social action given important priority. The church is well organized with strong leadership in every work area.

Of equal importance is the Sunday morning worship service and the preaching of the Word of God. Mr. Jones has stressed the importance of the Advent and Lenten seasons with additional services on Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Ascension Day.

It was at Mr. Jones' suggestion that the year 1981 be set apart as a celebration of the church's sesquicentennial, marking 150 years of continuous ministry in Waynesville.

PANCAKE DAY

The twenty-third annual Pancake Day, which seems to grow larger every year, was held February 24, 1981.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Way, who have continued their work throughout the years, were again in the key positions — Mrs. Way serving as general chairman and Mr. Way serving as chairman of the men's division. Mrs. Paul Blackwell continued her work as ticket chairman.

This event is not only the largest fund-raising project in the church year, it is an event that involves all church members working together in a great time of fellowship.

Each year more than 325 members of the church have contributed a minimum of one hour of their time as volunteer workers on Pancake Day. The effort has the complete support of the church as well as the community and has been the means of raising several thousand dollars. In the first four years the women bought more than $3,500 worth of equipment for the new kitchen in the education building. Since then money has been given to many local needs as well as mission needs on the national and world level.

Gross receipts have increased from around $650 in 1958 to more than $3,400 in 1981 and the number of people served has increased from a few hundred in 1958 to more than 2,000 in 1981.

It is interesting to note that 10,000 pancakes, 26 gallons of syrup, 300 pounds of sausage and 170 pounds of bacon were served in 1981 along with 60 pounds of margarine, 1800 cups of coffee, 15 pounds of sugar, 900 half-pints of milk and more than 10

gallons of milk for coffee.

The success of Pancake Day can be attributed to hard work on the part of church members, the response of the public, and contributions by local merchants and manufacturers of food products.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School, always a vital part of the church, offers programs for all age groups from the pre-school child to adults with able and dedicated teachers. Mrs. Santiago Lopez is educational assistant.

Enrollment in the pre-school Sunday morning groups totals 47 including the crib nursery. A planned program is provided from 9:45 a.m. until noon with the assistance of a paid worker and volunteers from the older Elementary and Youth Divisions.

Forty-four boys and girls in grades one through six make up the Elementary Division. Sometimes the department is broken down into age levels for study and at other times the department worships as a unit, breaking into interest groups for study.

YOUTH PROGRAM

The Youth Program, involving seventh through twelfth grade youth is basically two-pronged, including Sunday School and the United Methodist Youth Fellowship.

The Sunday School class of Junior High youth is taught by George Denmark, who blends object lessons with a biblical foundation, using a lecture/discussion format to give factual information and help the class members see the practical application of their Christian faith. The goal of the class is to expose Junior High Youth to the basic teachings of Christianity.

The Senior High Class is taught by Charles Penland, who strives to meet the young people where they are and challenge them to consider the impact of the Christian faith on their lives. Through different approaches of learning from lectures to making banners, to discussing God and the "Top 40" hit songs of the day, they are striving to work out a faith that will be a vital part of their lives.

UMYF meetings are held Sunday evenings under the direction of David Fussell, beginning with a snack supper

provided by different parents from week to week. The meal is followed by a recreation period including various games showing team spirit and group identity.

The junior and senior groups usually divide for their programs of study, service and worship in an informal atmosphere.

The groups enjoy retreats, recreational outings as well as helping with service projects such as contributing to world hunger or visiting in rest homes. Through all their activities the youth experiences what it means to work and play together as a community of faith. They have many opportunities to interact with each other and with adult counselors as they seek to find themselves and their place in the world.

In the summer of 1980, four members of the United Methodist Youth — James Inman, Robin Walker, Peter Martin and Chuck Reece — with David and Melanie Fussell as their leaders, spent two weeks in England and attended the International Christian Youth Conference in Truro, Cornwall, England.

At the conference, attended by youth from 47 countries, they experienced a week of Christian instruction, fellowship and worship under the leadership of international evangelists.

They also were privileged to worship at Wesley's Chapel and visit Gwennap Pit, a natural outdoor amphitheatre near the coal mines of Southwest, England where John Wesley often preached to miners.

During their second week in England the group participated in a Wesley Heritage Tour which included Wesley's birthplace and childhood home at Epworth and a number of other important Methodist historical sites.

The trip proved to be a tremendous opportunity for spiritual growth, insight and understanding of Methodist heritage.

ADULT CLASSES

There are seven adult Sunday School classes with an enrollment of 246.

The Young Adult class offers fellowship and study for college students and others in this age group who are pursuing careers. The class meets in an informal, comfortable setting on the ground floor of the church under the sanctuary.

The Covenant Class is an open discussion type group that gives members the opportunity to be active participants in learning about the Bible and its affect on their lives. Leadership is shared among the class members with occasional outside resource persons participating. Dr. Clarice Bowman is resource leader.

The Upper Room Class is an informal discussion group led by class members and is open to all ages. Reflecting on materials chosen by the group, the members share their faith, doubts, hopes, fears, opinions and experiences.

The Faith Class held in the Boyd Chapel appeals to all ages, who meet for the purpose of hearing and studying God's word. It is a lecture type class, taught by Ruth Curtis and Matt Howell.

The Asbury Class includes ages from 35 to 60, but anyone is welcome regardless of age. Four teachers share the leadership on a quarterly basis, using the International Sunday School Series. The teachers are Mrs. David Satterfield, Mrs. J. K. Stringfield, Mrs. Howard Williams, and the Rev. Robert Martin.

The Marietta Way Bible Class, formed many years ago by women interested in Bible study and discussion, is taught by Miss Ada Cornwell.

Joe Davis and Lawrence Leatherwood alternate as teachers of the Men's Bible Class that meets in the Boyd Annex.

The Wesley Fellowship Class is composed of 60 married couples and single men and women ranging in age from 50 up. The first part of the class session is taken up with enthusiastic hymn singing, prayer and sharing interests and concerns about class members. The teaching-learning portion of the class time combines teaching and the scriptures, essentially by the lecture method.

Mrs. Howard Bryson is the regular teacher with Mrs. Mark Rose and Mrs. Francis Cunningham as substitutes. The class is also fortunate in having several retired ministers and their wives who teach at intervals and contribute greatly to the learning session.

A special offering is taken the first Sunday of each month to be used for some charitable project in the church or community.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

1917-1918	E. J. Robeson	1932-1938	Hugh J. Sloan
1918-1920	J. M. Mock	1939-1956	M. H. Bowles
1921-1923	A. C. Reynolds	1957-1961	Carl Ratcliffe
1924-1929	Hugh J. Sloan	1961-1968	Charles Way
1930-1931	Homer Henry		

THE KINDERGARTEN

In 1959, after the education building was completed, the church took over the weekday kindergarten which had been operated in the church by Mrs. E. K. Herman as a private institution.

Mrs. Hollis Chase was named director-teacher and with two other staff members served approximately 40 children.

The program has grown continuously and in 1981 serves 120 children, ages three to five, with a staff of eight teachers plus a full time director, Mrs. Oliver Yount, who has directed the work since 1968.

The kindergarten program was enlarged in 1978 to include day care services.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Ministry of Music, under the direction of Betty Lou Hubbard, plays an important role in all services of the church.

The Chancel Choir, made up of ten sopranos, ten altos, six tenors and ten bases, presents outstanding anthems each Sunday morning, leading the congregation to a worshipful attitude.

In addition the choir, under the direction of Mrs. Hubbard with Dr. Betsy Farlow as organist, presents special music for occasions such as Christmas and Easter. The choir celebrated Christmas, 1980 with the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah" and presented the Easter portion in April, 1981.

The Youth Choir is made up of a small but enthusiastic group of teenagers, who both sing and play handbells for several services during the year, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. William Hubbard.

The Treble Choir of fourth, fifth and sixth graders not only learns songs to sing in church, but also learns the rudiments of handbell playing.

First, second and third graders form the Cherub Choir, which sings in church services occasionally during the year.

The Adult Handbell Choir, composed of the most advanced handbell players, is an inspiring addition to frequent morning services and special programs.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Throughout the years women of the First United Methodist Church have continued and broadened the work started by the first small group that organized the Women's Missionary Society in 1879. With the leadership of many dedicated and outstanding leaders they have supported the church in all its endeavors.

The organization of United Methodist Women has a total today (April, 1981) of 226 members, who make up eight Christian Service groups. The groups meet once a month and contribute funds to the UMW. The largest contribution goes to missions. Offerings also go to Brooks Howell Retirement Home, Haywood Christian Ministries, the Conference Scholarship Fund, Membership Pins and other special projects.

The women are no longer limited in opportunity as they were in the early days. In 1981 the Administrative Board includes 19 women among its 52 at-large members.

Within the past 10 years women of First United Methodist Church have been elected to the previously all-male positions of Lay Leader, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Chairperson of the Administrative Board, delegate to the Annual Conference and Chairperson of the Trustees. Women have served faithfully and well as chairpersons of committees on Worship, Education, Evangelism and Mission and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Women in the church have served effectively as committee members, as handbell ringers, as greeters at the 11 o'clock worship services and as members of the Altar Committee responsible for beautiful and inspiring worship settings.

In addition, women from the Waynesville First United Methodist Church have served in district offices for a number of years through the United Methodist Women and more recently as a part of the Waynesville Council on Ministries. Women from the church also serve on Western North Carolina Conference boards.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

An important organization within the church is the United Methodist Men's Fellowship.

The men meet the second Sunday in each month in the fellowship hall for breakfast prepared by one of the group's "cooking teams."

For programs they take advantage of talent within the church and the community. The diversified presentations include guest musicians and talks by resource persons from agencies concerned with the welfare of the community. At other times the hour is devoted to fellowship and discussion of church needs.

The group's main objectives are mission, ministry projects, fellowship and assisting with maintenance of the church property.

SOFTBALL

For several years the church has sponsored a softball team for men 16 years and older.

The team is affiliated with the Haywood Church Softball League and plays against other teams in the league twice a week during the months of June, July and August.

Approximately 25 players enjoy this sport and have made a good showing in the league standings.

SCOUTING

First United Methodist Church has been involved in and strongly supportive of scouting with church members providing leadership.

At present the church sponsors a Girl Scout troop and a Cub Scout Pack. The Rev. Kelley Jones serves as Cubmaster.

IN THE COUNTRY'S SERVICE

Numerous members of the First United Methodist congregation have responded to their country's needs during its several wars and have served in the armed forces with valor and distinction.

Those who made the supreme sacrifice in World Wars I and II and the Korean Conflict were Hunter Blackwell, Zeb Curtis, Jr., Thad Chafin, Joe Vance Davis, David Himes, Owen Hudson, Ken Palmer, David Stentz and James Queen.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

As this history of the Waynesville First United Methodist Church goes to the printer (April, 1981), the church is near the halfway mark in its sesquicentennial year.

The celebration began January 4, 1981 when the Rev. Kelley Jones, minister, and George Denmark, chairman of the Sesquicentennial Committee, introduced plans for a 12-month observance.

The plans called for special services involving former ministers, music and pageantry and the publication of a church history.

Thus far, the former ministers participating have been the Rev. Horwood Myers, now retired and living in Waynesville, who served as lector at a regular worship service; Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., now retired and living at Lake Junaluska, who spoke at a March family night dinner relating his memories of the ups and downs of the years he was here during the Depression; and Dr. Herman Nicholson, who gave reminiscences of his six years at the church and also gave an inspiring talk at an evening service March 29. Other former ministers will speak at later dates, not yet determined.

Still ahead is Sesquicentennial Sunday, May 24 with Bishop Scott Allen as the speaker at the morning service. The service will be followed by a church-yard picnic.

A Sesquicentennial pageant is scheduled during the month of October and a Great Day of singing is on the program Oct. 18.

An "Old Fashioned Christmas" is planned for the December 20 Family Night.

All of the programs are creating interest and anticipation. For some members the Sesquicentennial is a time for remembering lifelong ties with the church. For others its an opportunity to learn more about the history of their adopted church home.

For the church as a whole it is a time to build for a strong tomorrow, as Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (3:13, 14)

A Hymn of Celebration

Composed for the observance of
Sesquicentennial Sunday, May 24, 1981

Words by Kelley R. Jones Music by Dr. Maurice We

Chorus: Celebration! Celebration! This is the year of Celebratic
A year of rejoicing, a year of praise,
Thanksgiving and glory to God we raise!

1. God has created this church to be
In mission and in ministry;
For He alone did give it birth
To serve mankind throughout the earth.

2. Yonder in her pure infancy,
A little struggling babe to be sure;
God's plan was for this church to grow
And throughout centuries long endure.

Chorus

3. Despite the difficulty and pain,
Hardy believers chose to remain
Ever faithful to God's call divine.
Each generation has marched in line
Long and glorious reaching through time.

4. Through these years the church has met
The urgent problem of the time.
Often the task too great, and yet
The people sought God's way to find.

Chorus

5. Today a mighty fortress she stands,
Founded on the rock of Christ
Secure in His strong hand.
Forward we're going, onward we move,
Saved by God's mercy, charged by His love.

6. A sweet bond of unity, a oneness we claim,
The temptation to retreat we truly disdain.
Our pledge to God's future, we make without fear
For God leads us onward year after year.

7. On this bright day a new vision we hold,
Our purpose to serve is valiant and bold.
God's Holy Spirit will lead us along
Until we sing God's victory song.

Chorus

PRESIDENTS — WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. E. Edwards
Mrs. Fitzgerald
Mrs. E. H. Bogle
Mrs. S. F. Ferguson
Mrs. J. M. Tate
Mrs. R. D. Gilmer
Mrs. W. B. Ferguson
Mrs. J. K. Boone
Mrs. H. M. Rogers
Mrs. G. H. West
Mrs. Emma Willis
Mrs. E. J. Robeson
Mrs. J. H. Way
Mrs. A. C. Reynolds
Mrs. Tom Mangum
Mrs. P. W. Tucker
Mrs. J. M. Long
and others

WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Mrs. James Atkins
Mrs. J. Harden Howell
Mrs. J. Dale Stentz
Mrs. Noble Garrett
Mrs. Bonner Ray
Mrs. S. H. Bushnell
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Mrs. W. L. Turner
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Mrs. Lloyd Warren
Mrs. Hugh Massie
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Mrs. Lawrence Leatherwood
Mrs. Ray Ellis

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Mrs. James K. Stringfield
Mrs. Edward Broadwell
Mrs. Joe Hale
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WESLEYAN GUILD

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Mrs. Lewis Green
Mrs. Oliver Yount
Mrs. Myrtle Little
Mrs. Tom Zinavage

THE MINISTERS

HOLSTON CONFERENCE

WAYNESVILLE CIRCUIT – ASHEVILLE DISTRICT

1831	William Eakin	1848	Ulrich Keener
1832	William Eakin	1849	A. G. Worley
1833	H. Harrison	1850	Edwin Wexler
1834	A. Woodfin	1851	J. C. Hydon
1835	Raffail W. Pally	1852	Benjamin H. White
1936	W. Bruce and	1853	Benjamin H. White
	O. F. Cunning	1854	Wiley F. Parker
1837	S. A. Miller	1855	Wiley F. Parker
1838	Andrew Pickens	1856	Alexander F. English
1839	Andrew Pickens	1857	John Reynolds
1840	B. F. Wills	1858	J. W. Bird
1841	D. White	1859	James R. Long
1842	Reuben K. Ketron	1860	George W. K. Green and
1843	J. R. Bellamy		William Hicks, president
1844	A. F. Shannon		of Richland Institute
1845	A. B. Broyles and	1861	D. R. Reagan
	J. W. Thompson	1862	James R. Long
1846	J. W. Thompson and	1863	James R. Ballew
	Robert W. Pickens	1864	William H. Cooper and
1847	Ulrich Keener and		George Spake
	one to be supplied		

FRANKLIN DISTRICT

1865-1868	Thomas F. Glenn	1872	C. E. Wiggins
1868	J. W. Bird	1873	C. E. Wiggins
1869-1870	Joseph H. Wiggins	1874-1878	William M. Kerr
1871	C. B. Fugate	1878-1881	E. H. Bogle

WAYNESVILLE STATION

1881	W. A. Thomas	1885	D. H. Dickey
1882	William C. Carden	1886-1889	J. C. Orr
1883	T. R. Handy	1889-1890	G. W. Jackson
1884	G. W. Simpson		

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

FRANKLIN DISTRICT

1891	P. L. Grooms	1894	D. H. Coman
1892-1893	J. E. Gaye	1895-1896	R. D. Sherrill

WAYNESVILLE DISTRICT

1897-1901	T. J. Rogers	1933-1935	Paul Hardin, Jr.
1901-1905	J. E. Abernathy	1935-1937	R. S. Truesdale
1905-1907	Ira Erwin	1937-1941	J. G. Huggins, Jr.
1907	Marshall A. Smith	1941-1945	J. Clay Madison
1908-1911	J. H. Barnhardt	1945-1947	Paul Townsend
1911-1914	M. F. Moores	1947-1949	Russell L. Young
1914-1916	O. P. Ader	1949-1953	J. E. Yountz
1916-1920	Walter B. West	1953-1957	Earl H. Brendall
1920-1924	George D. Herman	1957-1963	R. H. Nicholson
1924-1927	J. T. Mangum	1963-1967	Horwood Myers
1927	T. F. Marr	1967-1971	Robert J. Ralls
1928	J. T. Mangum	1971-1976	J. Bernard Hurley
1928-1929	T. F. Higgins	1976-1979	Larry D. Wilkinson
1930	W. L. Hutchins	1979-	Kelley R. Jones and
1931	W. O. Goode		David Fussell
1932-1933	Wade Johnson		

LAY DELEGATES TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1918	J. Dale Stentz
1919	J. M. Mock
1920	No Listing
1921	J. A. Taylor
1922-1923	A. C. Reynolds
1924	John A. Taylor
1925-1931	James Atkins
1932	Homer Henry
1933-1937	James Atkins
1938-1941	J. R. Boyd
1942	Mrs. J. Dale Stentz
1943-1946	J. R. Boyd
1947-1949	Hugh Massie
1950-1951	N. W. Garrett
1952	W. Hugh Massie — H. B. Angel, alternate
1953-1957	W. Hugh Massie — N. J. Tucker, alternate

1958	W. Hugh Massie — Herbert Gibson, alternate
1959	W. Hugh Massie — M. H. Bowles, alternate
1960-1962	W. Hugh Massie — Lloyd Warren, alternate
1963	W. Hugh Massie — Dr. Frank Hammett, alternate
1964	W. Hugh Massie
1965-1971	W. Hugh Massie — Harvey M. Dulin, alternate
1972-1973	W. Hugh Massie — Joe Davis, alternate
1974	Dr. J. Frank Hammett, Enos Boyd, G. Dewey Stovall, Jr. (reserve)
1975	W. Hugh Massie — Dr. J. Frank Hammett, C. Jeff Reece (reserve)
1976	W. Hugh Massie — Dr. J. Frank Hammett, alternate
1977	W. Hugh Massie — C. Jeff Reece, alternate
1978	C. Jeff Reece — Charles Way
1979	C. Jeff Reece — Charles Way
1980	C. Jeff Reece — Mrs. James Stringfield (delegates)
1981	C. Jeff Reece — Mrs. James K. Stringfield (delegates)

WAYNESVILLE DISTRICT LAY LEADERS from FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1972-1974	C. Jeff Reece
1975-1976	C. Jeff Reece — Charles Way, Associate District Lay Leader
1977-1981	Charles B. Way

LAY LEADERS OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

1918	J. Dale Stentz	1950-1951	N. W. Garrett
1919	J. M. Mock	1952-1956	Hugh Massie
1920	J. M. Mock	1957	Johnathan Woody
1921	John A. Taylor	1958-1960	M. H. Bowles
1922-1923	A. C. Reynolds	1961-1962	Lloyd Warren
1924	John A. Taylor	1963	Ned Tucker
1925-1931	James Atkins	1964-1967	Marvin Culbreth
1932	Homer Henry	1968-1969	Howard Williams
1933-1937	James Atkins	1970-1972	Robert Massie
1938-1941	J. R. Boyd	1973-1974	Oscar C. Brock
1942	Mrs. Dale Stentz	1975-1979	Mrs. James K. Stringfield
1943-1946	J. R. Boyd	1980-1981	George Denmark
1947-1949	Hugh Massie		

DATE DUE

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